

## Bureau of Land Management



Sylvia Baca, Interim Director  
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## Protecting Public Land While Working to Reduce the Deficit

The Bureau of Land Management is requesting a fiscal year 1998 operating budget of \$1.122 billion, including \$50 million in emergency funding for wildland firefighting, the request represents an increase of \$31.9 million from 1997.

This budget responds to the American people's desire for a balanced budget and for the protection of our public land heritage," said Interim Director **Sylvia Baca**. "It will allow us to meet that dual responsibility even as we take on some important new ones."

During the BLM's new responsibility for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah—the first national monument ever assigned to the BLM's management—Baca said, "We have an exciting opportunity to build something completely new and fresh here—something that adds diversity to public land

management yet is consistent with conserving source values within the larger context of multiple-use."

The budget proposal includes \$6.4 million for management of the Monument, an increase of \$5 million from current funding levels. This money will support the development of a management plan to identify, assess, interpret, and ensure protection of the scientific, historical, and economic values within the Monument. The plan will also allow the BLM to respond to an expected increase in visitors and to continue managing for ongoing uses, such as stock grazing, rights-of-way compliance, mineral activity inspection and enforcement, and basic visitor services.

The BLM anticipates that 61 million people will visit public lands in 1998, an increase of 1.2 million from 1997. The budget asks for a \$4.7 million increase to improve service for recreational visitors, including. All revenues raised by a new monument fee program will be invested in the areas where they are collected to improve building and maintaining facilities, stabilize stream banks, set up fencing, and provide maps and signs. Cost-share partners will often provide labor for these projects.



The Lexington Kentucky Mustang Troop marches down Pennsylvania Avenue during the Inaugural parade.

The budget also includes an additional \$1.1 million to continue the President's Forest Plan. In 1998, the BLM will increase experimentation in adaptive management areas; complete watershed analyses on BLM-managed forests in the Northwest; increase surveying and monitoring efforts on more than 1,100 special-status species and habitat; take important steps in refilling the timber pipeline; and shift forestry development efforts from reforestation to forest stand treatments. Some funds appropriated for the Jobs-in-the-Woods program—which creates short-term family wage jobs for displaced forest workers and restores impaired forest lands—will be used to pursue coastal salmon restoration through cooperative efforts with the state of Oregon.

New and continuing conservation measures totaling \$10 million will focus on control of water pollution from abandoned mines, noxious weed control, prescribed burns that restore range and forest lands to natural conditions, riparian and wetlands management, and wild horse and burro management. The BLM proposes conducting many of these projects as "challenge cost-share partnerships," with the agency providing matching funds for certain activities.

The 1998 request for wildland fire management for the BLM, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the National Park Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service is \$280.1 million, an increase of \$28.1 million from the 1997 budget. This follows the fire season of 1996, the largest and most intense in recent memory. The increase will enable these federal agencies to raise their level of preparedness; increase suppression funding to keep pace with higher average annual firefighting costs; and increase use of prescribed fire as a way of reducing the hazards of larger, more devastating wildfires.

*No Increase in  
BLM Grazing  
Fees, page 7.*

## Mustang Troop Salutes President

Bill James, Jackson District Office

It was a long journey from the streets of Lexington, Kentucky, to historic Pennsylvania Avenue, but there they were, nine inner-city youngsters—The Mustang Troopers—astride once-wild horses from western rangelands, saluting **William Jefferson Clinton** at the 53rd Presidential Inaugural in the nation's Capitol.

The troop was formed in 1993 by a partnership involving the Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington-Fayette Police Activities League, and the BLM. The program teamed up youth from some of

Lexington's inner-city neighborhoods with partially-trained wild horses provided by the BLM. These youngsters spent summer vacations and weekends for three years gaining leadership skills, training and grooming their mustangs, and practicing equestrian drills in hopes of having an opportunity to perform.

Their dream came true with the invitation from the Presidential Inaugural Committee to participate in the Inaugural Parade. The crowning moment arrived as the Troop approached the reviewing stand. A delighted President Clinton responded to the Troop's "Eyes Left" maneuver with a broad smile and a "double thumbs up." They knew they had done well.

## Wyoming Team Receives Department Award

At the Departmental Honor Awards Convocation, Secretary Babbitt presented the BLM's Wyoming State Office the Equal Opportunity Award for Organizational Achievement. The honor is presented annually to the group that has demonstrated exceptional and positive advancement of equal opportunity in the organization as a team effort. **Ray Wilson**, leader of the Wyoming Equal Employment Opportunity Team, accepted the award on behalf of the office.

This presentation recognized Wyoming's proactive approach in equal opportunity programs. Some of their accomplishments include: Wyoming had no formal EEO complaints for two successive years; affirmative action programs increased the employment and advancement opportunities for women and minorities; outreach recruitment activities reached more than 1200 Wyoming students from grade schools through colleges; ethnic observances were held for employees; comprehensive training for employees across the state was conducted on prevention sexual harassment, cultural diversity and conflict management.



Members of the Wyoming EEO team, from left, are Zandra Lopez, Lyla Bennett, and Olen Johnson. Standing are Jessica Camargo, Tim Nowak, George Hollis, Ray Wilson and Michael Lucero.

In addition, Wyoming is the lead state office for Bennett College in the BLM-Historical Black Colleges and Universities Partners for Progress initiative. The office assisted in conducting Bureau training for the National IMAGE Conference and increased student participation in the Resource Apprenticeship Program.

## Nevada Ranchers Honored

Maxine Shane, Nevada

Four Nevada ranchers who have made significant contributions to public land stewardship were honored by the BLM and Nevada state agencies this winter. The results of their contributions will be apparent this spring. Recognized were: **Steven Carter** of the Carter Cattle Co., of Lund, for overall stewardship; **Ira H. Kent** of Fallon, for wildlife; **Peter Talbott** of the 26 Ranch in Battle Mountain, for improvement of riparian areas; and **Dr. Molly Flagg Knudtsen** of Reno, formerly a rancher in central Nevada, for her support of historic preservation. The Nevada Division of Wildlife joined the BLM in honoring Kent and Talbott. The State Historic Preservation Officer is a co-sponsor of Knudtsen's award.

Carter Cattle Co. has worked to stabilize or improve the watershed and maintain or improve biodiversity in White River and Cave Valleys. The company invited an Holistic Resource Management Team to develop a biological plan that considers livestock grazing, wildlife, forage, nutrient cycling and energy flow, growing seasons, time of grazing use, and economics. Perennial water flow has already improved, and there is greater plant density in some portions of the 12 allotments that the Carters manage.

Hammy Kent has always had an interest in wildlife. In the 1930s, as a college student, he introduced the first chukkers, a species of partridge, in Nevada. He also introduced mountain quail into his allotment in the Stillwater Mountains. He developed springs and seeps to benefit upland and non-game birds and small mammals, and supported the bighorn sheep reintroduction program.

Flagg Knudtsen has personally recorded numerous sites in Grass Valley, central Nevada. While a University of Nevada Regent, she supported the development of the Anthropology Department in Reno. She was a strong advocate for cultural resources research at the University's Gund Ranch and has supported research on sites both on private land and adjacent public lands.

Talbott manages the 26 Ranch which has been heavily involved in restoring Beaver Creek, which is part of the Lahontan Cutthroat trout restoration project, and Rock Creek Canyon. Fencing, planting of seedlings, and establishing grazing systems, which include rest and limited short-duration use, have been part of that work. Talbott has been involved in two major winter range restoration projects to bring back crucial mule deer winter ranges devastated by wildfires.

## BLMers Named Outstanding Professionals

**Darrell Sall Garnet** (MT) Resource Area manager and **Nick Rieger**, BLM minerals specialist from the Elko District office in Nevada, have been named Outstanding Public Land Professionals for 1996 by the Public Lands Foundation.

Foundation President **George Lea** announced the selections January 27, crediting Sall with outstanding and relentless dedication to providing professional management of the public resources in establishing the Blackfoot Challenge cooperative management area. The goal of the Blackfoot Challenge is to protect the health of all land in the area, regardless of ownership, and to resolve long-standing management and riparian habitat problems. Sall also worked to develop a land exchange through the Nature Conservancy to acquire a 10 1/2-mile stretch of the Blackfoot River corridor formerly owned by the Plum Creek Timber Company. The exchange involves 11,700 acres of land valued at \$18.12 million.

Rieger was recognized for his work with the mining industry and the public, and for establishing the Carlin Trend Reclamation Group to promote innovative reclamation methods in the largest gold mining district in the United States. Lea described the national award, now in its eighth annual presentation, as Hall of Fame recognition for action by professional land managers that constitutes special professional achievement and courage.

## BSA Honors Murphy

The Boys Scouts of America recently presented BLM's **David Murphy** with its Silver Beaver Award, the most prestigious honor awarded to exceptional adult leaders by a Boy Scout Council. Murphy, a geologist for the Winnemucca Field Office, is responsible for regulating some of the large gold and silver mines in northern Nevada. He has been Council Commissioner for the Nevada Area Boy Scout Council since January 1995.

Murphy, who is advanced in woodbadge and leadership training, has previously served as district commissioner, unit commissioner, district Boy Scout training chairman, district Boy Scout advancement chairman, scoutmaster, assistant scoutmaster, and merit badge counselor. Highlights of his scouting career include a two-week backpacking trek with his scout troop to the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Dave also served as a member of the team which represented the BLM on the Conservation Trail at the 1993 Boy Scouts of America National Jamboree, near Fredericksburg, Virginia, where thousands of scouts learned about the BLM, its multiple use mandate, and its programs.



David Murphy

## Recreational Fisheries

Michelle Dawson, Washington Office

The BLM's Implementation Plan for the Recreational Fishery Resources Conservation Strategy represents the culmination of two years of intensive work in response to the President's Executive Order on Recreational Fishing!.

The BLM's plan is designed to be a living document, said **Maitland Sharpe**, assistant director for Renewable Resources and Planning. "The plan and collection of state-specific summaries outline projects and activities that each BLM state director has approved for completion, as appropriations become available," Maitland said.

"Recreational fishing is a cherished American tradition that significantly contributes to the social and economic vitality of our nation," Sharpe said. "Fishing represents a universal entry point into the natural world, provides many social benefits, is a relaxing and healthful source of recreation for millions of individuals and families, and encourages a lasting appreciation of the outdoors. Demand for these opportunities is rapidly increasing and the BLM is committed to meet these challenges."

As manager of 174,000 miles of fishable streams, 2.5 million acres of lakes and reservoirs, and 533 boating access points, the BLM is committed to revitalizing aquatic and riparian habitat on public land to assure viable populations of resident and anadromous fish species. Alaska's Hoosier Creek, for example, is a project on an upland stream where innovative restoration techniques are being used to recover heavily impacted habitat. Other aspects of the BLM's plan promote public education and support for resource conservation and ethics.



BLMers, above, take part in National Fishing Week to educate America's children about fishing.